

In the Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A head assembly for a cutting machine, comprising:

a head having mounting means for movement of said head assembly on an axis, said head defining a first channel oriented at an oblique angle to said axis;

a slide mounted for slidable movement in said first channel between a withdrawn blade position and a plunged blade position, said slide having a second channel therein extending substantially parallel to said first channel, and said slide and head having first cooperating mechanical means thereon for adjustably limiting the movement of said slide to said plunged blade position; and

a blade-holding magazine dimensioned and configured for slidable insertion into said second channel, wherein said slide and magazine include a second cooperating mechanical means thereon for adjustably limiting the depth of magazine insertion into said second channel.

2. (Previously Amended) A head assembly for a cutting machine, comprising:

a head having mounting means for movement of said head assembly on an axis, said head defining a first channel oriented at an oblique angle to said axis; and

a slide mounted for slidable movement in said channel of said head between a withdrawn blade position and a plunged blade position, said slide having a second channel therein extending substantially parallel to said first channel for receiving a blade-holding magazine inserted therein, said slide and head having first cooperating mechanical means thereon for adjustably limiting the movement of said slide to said plunged blade position;

wherein the blade-holding magazine is dimensioned and configured for slidable insertion into said second channel in said slide, said slide and magazine having second cooperating mechanical means thereon for adjustably limiting the depth of magazine insertion into said second channel; and

wherein said assembly includes a linear motion support system for said slide, said support system comprising, on each of two opposite sides of said slide, an array of at least three elongate rectilinear elements mutually spaced to define a passage therewithin, and a multiplicity of bearing elements loosely stacked in columnar relationship within said defined passage.

3. (Previously Amended) The assembly of claim 1 further comprising means for selectively fixing the magazine within the second channel.
4. (Previously Amended) The assembly of claim 1 wherein the second cooperating mechanical means comprises at least one first locating member attached to the magazine, and at least one second locating member attached to the slide, wherein the magazine is insertable into the second channel to a position wherein the first locating member and the second locating member contact one another and limit further insertion of the magazine within the second channel.
5. (Previously Added) The assembly of claim 3, wherein the means for selectively fixing the magazine within the second channel includes a clamping screw.
6. (Previously Added) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the clamping screw is disposed to act against a cutting blade held within the magazine, thereby operatively positioned to fix both the magazine and the cutting blade within the second channel.
7. (Previously Added) The assembly of claim 4, wherein at least one of the first locating member and the second locating member are adjustably positionable, thereby enabling the position of the magazine within the second channel when the first locating member is in contact with the second locating member, to be selectively adjusted.
8. (Previously Added) The assembly of claim 4, wherein the slide comprises a plurality of second locating members.
9. (Previously Added) The assembly of claim 8, further comprising one or more second blade-holding magazines dimensioned and configured for slidable insertion into said second channel in place of the first magazine, wherein the first locating member of the one or more second blade-holding magazines are positioned to align with at least one the plurality of second locating members.

10. (Previously Added) The head assembly of claim 1, wherein the blade-holding magazine comprises a flange and a means for holding a blade in contact with the flange.

11. (Previously Added) The assembly of claim 10, wherein the flange is disposed such that the means for holding a blade in contact with the flange holds a portion of a cutting edge of the blade in contact with the flange.

12. (Previously Added) The assembly of claim 11, wherein the means for holding a blade in contact with the flange includes a screw threadably engaged with the magazine, the screw positioned to act against an end of the blade opposite the cutting edge.

13. (Currently Amended) A head assembly for a cutting machine, comprising:

a head having mounting means for movement of said head assembly on an axis, said head defining a first channel oriented at an oblique angle to said axis;

a slide mounted for slidable movement in said first channel between a withdrawn blade position and a plunged blade position, said slide having a second channel therein extending substantially parallel to said first channel, and said slide and head having cooperating mechanical means thereon for adjustably limiting the movement of said slide to said plunged blade position; and

a blade-holding magazine dimensioned and configured for slidable insertion into said second channel, wherein the magazine includes a slot, a shoulder obliquely disposed relative to the slot and positioned adjacent one end of the slot, and means for securing a blade ~~to the magazine~~ within the slot.

14. (Currently Amended) The head assembly of claim 13, wherein the ~~blade-holding magazine comprises a flange and a means for holding~~ securing a blade in contact with the flange within the slot is configured to secure a blade having an obliquely oriented cutting edge.

15. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 14 13, wherein the flange is disposed such that the means for holding the blade in contact with the flange means for securing a blade within the slot holds a portion of a cutting edge of the blade in contact with the flange.

16. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 15, wherein the means for ~~holding a blade against the flange~~ securing a blade within the slot includes a screw threadably engaged with the magazine, the screw positioned to act against an end of the blade opposite the cutting edge.

17. (Currently Amended) A blade magazine for use in a head assembly of a matboard cutting machine, comprising:

a body;

a slot disposed in the body, the slot sized to receive a cutting blade that has an obliquely oriented cutting edge;

a flange ~~disposed contiguous with the slot~~ disposed adjacent one end of the slot;
and

a means for holding a cutting edge of the blade in contact with the flange, wherein said holding means is operable to prevent slidable motion of a blade relative to the flange.

18. (Currently Amended) The magazine of claim 17, wherein the flange is ~~positioned at an end of the slot, and~~ oriented relative to the slot at an angle that is at least substantially the same as a cutting edge angle of the blade, thereby enabling a portion of the blade to extend out from the magazine.